

he were partaking of a meal. Baby will then eagerly swallow some of the food or drink and will make gestures for the dog to have more. In this way a whole meal is sometimes consumed. Needless to say, an occasion such as this is extremely rare, but it is typical.

When he is being dressed or undressed and he is required to hold his head back, he will do so if someone else also performs the action, and in this manner he becomes easy to manage and control.

A strange effect of this imitative instinct is that all who have to do with the baby take care that their speech and actions are worth imitating, and any roughness of word or deed is banned from baby's presence.

Many an adult has bad or irritating habits simply because when he or she was a baby care was not taken to see that the imitative instinct was guided into the right channels; and many a baby will grow up happier and pleasanter if those around it remember that their every sentence or ejaculation affects baby's speech and their slightest unguarded movement may set up a train of bad habits in the baby.

DORIS BAILEY.

NURSING ECHOES.

The letter addressed to this Journal by Miss G. E. Davies, the Registrar of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, contains the interesting information that it has been decided to relinquish to the British Broadcasting Corporation their premises, Nos. 20 and 22, Portland Place, London, W.1, in exchange for Nos. 23 and 25, Portland Place and a sum adequate to cover the cost of building and removal to the new premises, and loss of revenue.

Apparently therefore the G.N.C. has made a good bargain, as for extension purposes the B.B.C. has been compelled to acquire the two houses now occupied by the General Nursing Council.

Nos. 23 and 25 are situated at the corner of New Cavendish Street, on the opposite side of the street to present Headquarters, and presumably the Council will avail itself of the opportunity of erecting a commodious building specially designed to meet its needs for the future, where its work can be carried on with special facilities for its various departments with economy and dispatch. It is to be hoped that the Georgian period of architecture which in the past made Portland Place the finest and typically English street in London will be adopted and that the architectural monstrosity in which the B.B.C. is housed will be studiously avoided in building. Anyway Registered Nurses may congratulate themselves that they are now to have a permanent House of their own in which they should be encouraged to take a personal interest.

Her Majesty the Queen has been graciously pleased to approve the appointment of 132 nurses to be Queen's Nurses, 106 from district training schools in England and Wales, 22 from Scotland, and 4 from Ireland.

In these days when games have reached the standard of a scientific cult, a "go as you please party" is most refreshing, at least so it was when on January 16th the United Nursing Services Club held a very successful Christmas Party. The Chairman, Dame Anne Beadsmore

Smith, D.B.E., R.R.C., and Miss M. Dempster, a Director, were present and some hundred members and friends foregathered at 34, Cavendish Square, W.1. There was no lack of variety of amusement. The Lounge was arranged for Bridge, the large Drawing Room provided a delightful floor for dancing, and the small Drawing Room proved a snug little retreat for games, where the choice of Bagatelle, Rummy, Lexicon, General Knowledge, Party Games, had been skilfully arranged by the Secretary, Miss M. F. Steele, R.R.C., and were much appreciated. In the Dining Room, à la buffet, most dainty refreshments of delicious variety were served, and later, the lure of the Professional Palmist was irresistible judging from her following.

The evening, a most enjoyable one, was marked by the pleasant good fellowship so conspicuous in the United Nursing Services Club, and the management is to be congratulated on the unqualified success of the evening.

How necessary is training in fire-drill for the nurses in hospitals and institutions where the sick are congregated was exemplified during a fire at the City of London Institution, Bow Road, E., when the West Wing caught fire, and the courage, coolness and superb discipline of some 60 nurses resulted in the removal to safety of 250 patients under most alarming conditions.

When the flames were first seen they were creeping along the ceiling and licking the walls of the top floor ward, in which were 125 elderly and bed-ridden women.

The Sister in Charge, Sister Seeby, as reported in the *Daily Telegraph*, at once gave the alarm and marshalled all the other nurses, men and women, in the building. Quietly and calmly they began moving the patients.

Some were wrapped in blankets and carried out. Others were wheeled to the lifts in chairs or in their beds. All the time the flames—visible for miles all over East London—were roaring and crackling overhead.

Half an hour after the alarm had first been given the roof fell in and the ward was filled with blazing timber. But by that time it was empty—every patient had been taken to safety with not a single injury.

After two hours the fire was out and the patients had been put to rest, some in other hospitals, some in already crowded wards, and 50 in the little chapel of the institution.

There were many pathetic scenes during the removal of the patients. One aged patient, who has been bedridden for many years, said to a nurse: "God bless you, nurse, you have done us all so well."

Dr. E. T. Pinhey, the Medical Superintendent, who directed the rescue work, told a representative of our contemporary that the leadership of Sister Seeby and male nurse Sidney Hall calls for high praise.

They set a good example of coolness which was followed by all, including the patients. There was absolutely no sign of panic, and 250 patients were removed to safety in half an hour.

The Sister in Charge, and the nursing staff who worked with her, would doubtless say they had only done their duty. That is true. But they did it splendidly, and the Nursing Profession thanks them for upholding its best traditions.

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